

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, PE
SUBJECT: EXILED LEFTISTS RETURN, SPLITS ON THE LEFT WIDEN

REF: LIMA 2326

SUMMARY: BENEFITING FROM THE GOP'S POLITICAL AMNESTY (REFTEL)
RETIRED GENERAL LEONIDAS RODRIGUEZ FIGUEROA AND EX-GUERILLA
LEADER HUGO BLANCO HAVE RECENTLY RETURNED TO LIMA. ON APRIL 17
THEY MADE SEPARATE TV APPEARANCE FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY
SOCIALIST PARTY (PSR) AND THE WORKER, PEASANT, STUDENT POPULAR
COALITION (FOCEP). THE DAY ALSO SAW AN EXACERBATION OF DIFFERENCES
AMONG PERUVIAN LEFTISTS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ARRIVAL OF PSR PRESIDENT LEONIDAS RODRIGUEZ FIGUEROA
MIDDAY APRIL 17 OCCASIONED A QUARREL AT THE AIRPORT BETWEEN
PSR SUPPORTERS AND THE MLR, A FRINGE RADICAL LABOR
GROUP. TEN DEMONSTRATORS AND A NEWSMAN WERE REPORTED
INJURED IN THE FIGHT THAT BROKE OUT IN FRONT OF THE AIRPORT
AS THE MLR DISPLAYED A BANNER ACCUSING RODRIGUEZ, FORMER
CHIEF OF THE GOP'S SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AGENCY (SINAMOS), OF
BETRAYING CUZCO WORKERS.

2. THE EVENING OF APRIL 17, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PSR ANTONIO
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MESA CUADRA PRESENTED RODRIGUEZ ON A PSR TELEVISION PROGRAM IN
ONE OF THE 20-MINUTE TV SLOTS AVAILABLE TO POLITICAL PARTIES.
(MESA CUADRA ALSO INTRODUCED OTHER PSR NOTABLES, INCLUDING
RECENTLY RETURNED EXILES ARTURO VALDEZ PALACIO, MANUEL BENZE
CHACON, RAFAEL RONCAGLIOLO, JORGE DELLAPIANI, ELIO PORTOCARRERO
AND ANTONIO ARAGON.) DURING THE CONFUSED PRESENTATION, RODRIGUEZ
MADE A BRIEF, UNIMPRESSIVE APPEARANCE PROTESTING THE "ALLEGATION"

THAT HE WAS OPPOSED TO THE ARMED FORCES AND INSISTING HE HAD BEEN UNJUSTLY EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY.

3. EX-GUERILLA LEADER HUGO BLANCO APPEARED IMMEDIATELY AFTER RODRIGUEZ (ON ANOTHER CHANNEL) SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF FOCEP, THE MARXIST GROUPING HEADED BY GENARO LEDESMA. NUMBER THREE ON FOCEP'S CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY LIST OF CANDIDATES AND RECENTLY OF THE LECTURE CIRCUIT IN US UNIVERSITIES, BLANCO WAS SELF ASSURED AND IMPRESSIVE IN HIS TV PRESENTATION. CITING HIS EXPERIENCES WITH CAMPESINO GROUPS IN THE SOUTH OF PERU, HE CALLED FOR NATIONALIZATION OF ALL LARGE PRIVATE BUSINESSES (FOREIGN OR PERUVIAN) AND THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES, THE LATTER TO BE REPLACED BY ARMED COMMITTEES OF DEFENSE WHICH WOULD PERMANENTLY ELIMINATE THREATS OF COUPS. HE SARCASTICALLY NOTED THAT EX-OFFICIALS OF THE VELASCO REGIME WHOHAD PERSECUTED WORKERS AND PEASANTS ARE NOW "GOOD SOCIALISTS." HE ROUNDLY DENOUNCED TWO OTHER LEFTIST PARTIES, THE REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST ACTION (ARS) AND POPULAR DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (UDP) FOR SEEKING AN ALLIANCE WITH PSR. NEITHER CANDIDATE'S SPEECH SEEMED LIKELY TO INFLUENCE THE UNDECIDED VOTERS - THE FIRST SPEECH BEING TOO BANAL AND THE SECOND TOO RADICAL.

4. INTERNECINE QUARRELS AMONG THE LEFT WERE IN EVIDENCE NOT ONLY ON TV AND AT THE LIMA AIRPORT, BUT ALSO AT THE TOMB OF PERUVIAN MARXIST JOSE MARIATEGUI. THE MOSCOW LINE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) ASSEMBLED AT THE TOMB EARLY APRIL 17 FOR A MEMORIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SERVICE. WHILE PCP LEADERS WERE SPEAKING, THEY WERE INTERRUPTED BY THE CCUSC, A FAR LEFT LABOR GROUP, ALONG WITH A PATRIA ROJA (PEKING-LINE) FACTION WHO REPORTEDLY CAME EQUIPPED FOR THEIR COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES WITH STICKS, CHAINS AND ROCKS. THE PCP LEADERS WITHDREW AMIDST SHOUTS OF "DIVIATIONIST, REVISIONIST, ETC." AND CCUSC BEGAN ITS PROGRAM WHICH WAS IN TURN INTERRUPTED BY THE ARRIVAL OF A LARGER GROUP FROM UDP.

6. COMMENT: THE VARIOUS CONFRONTATIONS RESULTED IN LITTLE REAL DAMAGE, EITHER TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY AND NEITHER THEY, NOR THE TV APPEARANCE, COULD BE CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT IN THEMSELVES. HOWEVER THE DAY'S EVENTS CERTAINLY WIDENED EXISTING DIVISIONS AMONG PERU'S VARIOUS LEFTIST GROUPS LEAVING AS APPARENT BENEFICIARIES THE RIGHTIST AND CENTRIST PARTIES.

DECON 12/1/80.

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